

15 August 1969

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MEMORANDUM FOR:

SUBJECT : Review of Genadii Alexandrovich Belov's paper

Following are my comments on the paper titled "Records Preservation In the U.S.S.R. by Genadii Alexandrovich Belov, Director General of Archives, Moscow.

Generally I thought this paper was very interesting and contained information that is very timely and appropriate.

The description of their Archives with "stationary metal double-faced shelves" resemble Records Centers in our country. The mention of "construction of the majority of premises is designed for compact packets of Kompaktus type under the shelves" indicates that they are preparing for the possible installation of moveable shelves.

The various descriptions of volume of files in miles of shelving and kilometers at first tends to frighten you of their enormity, but when you analyze and convert into our records terms it appears that our holdings are far in excess of theirs. We have never thought of our Centers having X miles of shelving.

The description of an "Archives" as noted on page 5 seems to be quite limited. The elevators being limited to 227 lbs. could restrict operations.

It is interesting to note that they also have experienced problems with seepage of water.

They do not make extensive use of microfilming operations. They use microfilm more as an insurance or protection means. They use it to augment their collection; to issue microfilm copies instead of issuing originals.

They insist that the costs incurred in microfilming operations are considerably more than costs required in the construction of buildings used to store the documents.

In addition they feel that daily microfilm use is much more tiring for researchers and its use could impose exceptionally strict requirements of systemization and scientific technical processing.

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